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February 2002 - Injury Prevention Newsletter

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1. Five Regional Smoke Alarm Grants Awarded: In early February the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services awarded smoke alarm grants to Maniilaq Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Norton Sound Health Corporation and Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. These grants fund programs to conduct residential smoke alarm inspections, smoke alarm installations as needed and basic home fire prevention and safety education in at least 1 regional community. Each grant recipient has 750 photoelectric smoke alarms for their projects. The Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services (CHEMS) looks forward to working with these five regions during this first year of a five-year federal grant from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CHEMS is also soliciting interest from other regional corporations, businesses, organizations and agencies for the year 02 projects. Please contact Mary Krom at (907) 269-3489 or [mary\\_krom@health.state.ak.us](mailto:mary_krom@health.state.ak.us) <[mailto:mary\\_krom@health.state.ak.us](mailto:mary_krom@health.state.ak.us)> if you are interested in receiving more information. Next year's grants should begin on, or around, October 1, 2002.

2. Helmets on the Slopes in Juneau and Girdwood: The Tuesday, February 26, 2002 Life & Health Section of the Anchorage Daily News ran an article by Kathleen Doheny of the Los Angeles Times Syndicate about basic precautions toward avoiding injury on the slopes. One of the safety products mentioned for both skiers and boarders was a helmet. The article says that wearing a helmet on the slopes is beginning to catch on and may even be considered "cool."

With a concern for brain injuries incurred during slope sports, the Alaska Injury Prevention Center and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Injury Prevention Program have purchased helmets for the Alyeska and Eaglecrest ski patrols. By having the ski patrol members wear helmets, there is hope for a paradigm shift in thinking about helmets on the slopes and that more and more Alaskan skiers and boarders will begin to wear this safety product. To see if the ski patrol role modeling helmet use has an effect, Martha Moore, Injury Prevention Program Manager says "Juneau staff has done a baseline observation study on helmet use at the Eaglecrest ski area and will continue to monitor this over time to see if helmet use increases."

3. Snowmobile Licensing or Not: In early February 2002 the media reported on the fact that snow machine and all terrain vehicle operators are required to have a driver's license when operating their machinery on public property. This includes trails on public property as well as streets and highways. This is not a new law but the law seemed to be news to many Alaskans.

Currently there is a bill to halt the license requirement for snowmobiles. The bill that would repeal the license requirement cleared the House Transportation Committee and has been referred to the State Affairs Committee. Interested parties may follow this by referring to HB 397 and checking the site listed in last month's newsletter [www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp)

4. Alaska Injury Prevention Calendar for March Events: Beginning during the first week of March the SAFE KIDS with the Homer Volunteer Fire Dept. will engage in poison prevention activities in the schools. March 8 & 15 there will be Safe Sitter classes at the Razdolna School for Russian Students and on March 18 and 19 the Safe Sitter course will be held at the SPH Annex in Homer. For all the above activities contact Sue Brooks 235-0285. March 13th at 10:00 AM there will be an Alaska SAFE KIDS Coalition Statewide teleconference, contact Peggy Hayashi (907) 261-5625 or Gordon Glaser 269-3433. March 12-15 is a Child Passenger Safety Technicians course at 4700 South Bragaw (Municipality of Anchorage's Office of Planning, Development & Public Works) in Anchorage, contact Peggy Hayashi at (907) 261-5625 or Gordon Glaser at 269-3433. On March 18 & 19 the Governor's Safety and Health Conference will be held in Anchorage.

5. March 17-23 is National Inhalants & Poisons Awareness Week: The 10th Annual National Inhalants & Poisons Awareness Week is coming up quickly. In 1999 Alaska had 78 deaths reported from poisonings of all intents. There are many Web sites that address inhalant abuse and poisonings one is [www.inhalants.org](http://www.inhalants.org) which has materials to assist in conducting activities during March 17-23.

6. Access WISQARS 1999 Data on the Web: The number of deaths from poisonings above came from the WISQARS 1999 data. You can find this same information and more at [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/). You can also find a new feature at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control regarding injury maps. Access those at [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/maps/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/maps/default.htm)

7. Just For Fun: The benefit of getting a newsletter out one day late is getting to read about a day in Britain that's called Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSI) Awareness day on the Reuters Health Information Web site. The Britain RSI Association has made February 29, or March 1 on non-leap years, a day to practice non-repetitive movement. So stop what you're doing, stand up, shrug your shoulders a few times, do some shoulder rolls, gently move your head side to side, do a couple of torso twists, wrist circles and finger exercises then take a couple of deep breaths and sit back down. Remember to stand and move frequently throughout your day.

8. Product Recalls and Safety Information: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission tracks injuries or deaths in over 15,000 consumer products. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at 800-638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at 800-638-8270. Other information and product recalls are available on their website: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

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This message has been compiled by the Section of Community Health and EMS (CHEMS), Alaska Division of Public Health and sent to subscribers of the AK-Prev and AHELP list-serves. It has also been sent as a "bcc" to others in Alaska including Public Health Centers, SAFE KIDS coalitions, Native Health Organizations, and regional EMS Councils and Coordinators who may be interested and active in injury prevention and health promotion. The purpose is to share resources, breaking news, training opportunities, product recalls, and opinions to help prevent injuries to Alaskans. Feedback and contributions are encouraged. Contributions can be directed to Zoann Murphy: [zoann\\_murphy@health.state.ak.us](mailto:zoann_murphy@health.state.ak.us)